

National History Day in Iowa 2022 Topics

Theme Description: *Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences*

Some topics might be stories of debate and diplomacy, while others might cover debate with little diplomatic effort or diplomacy without debate. Students must investigate to determine whether one or both of those themes are present in their narrative.

Debates are formal or informal meetings where people argue opposing views. Some debates involve two sides, while others involve three (or more) perspectives.	Diplomacy usually involves negotiating, compromising, and communicating with people or nations to find a nonviolent solution. Debate and diplomacy can occur independently or be intertwined. Can diplomacy lead to new debates? Can debates lack diplomacy?
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Students must also consider the successes, failures, and consequences of debates or diplomatic exchanges.

- Were they successful, and for how long? Did they fail to resolve the issues or have unintended consequences?
- It is important to consider the short-term and long-term impact of different events or exchanges on history.

Students need to determine the legacies and consequences, good and bad, of the debates and diplomatic actions they choose. They must ask questions about successes, failures, and consequences to drive analysis. What do we consider a successful debate or diplomatic endeavor? Can a failure turn into a success or vice versa?

Iowa and National Debates and Diplomacy

The Babel Proclamation:

The proclamation was controversial, supported by many established English-speaking Iowans and notably opposed by citizens who spoke languages other than English.

- [Babel Proclamation, May 1918](#) - The Babel Proclamation was issued by Iowa's Governor William L. Harding.
- [Revocation of Babel Proclamation, 1918](#) - This document source is the revocation from Harding that removed executive order from the provisions of the "Babel Proclamation," but upheld the use of English only in classrooms. A revocation is the official cancellation of a decree, decision or promise.
- [Language Proclamation Correspondence #1, June 1, 1918](#) - This 1918 letter from the Sioux City Missouri Synod Lutheran Church to Iowa Governor William Harding is requesting permission to conduct services in Swedish.
- [Language Proclamation Correspondence #2, June 3, 1918](#) - This is a 1918 letter from Maurice W. Colbert, mayor of Danbury, Iowa, which is located on the western border of the state.
- [Language Proclamation Correspondence #3, June 6, 1918](#) - This letter from Pastor C.A. Gavert to Iowa Governor William Harding on June 6, 1918, is asking for permission to conduct church services in Swedish.
- [German Iowa and the Global Midwest](#) - Great resource to find hundreds of letters in relation to the Babel Proclamation and you can sort by county.

Iowa Equal Suffrage Association (now League of Women Voters)

Iowa citizens took part in debates and campaigned for the women's suffrage movement. However, not all Iowans agreed on the subject of women earning the right to vote.

- [Women's Suffrage Source Set](#) - Provides historical context to women's suffrage in Iowa and U.S.
- [Right to Vote: Suffrage for Women, African Americans and American Indians Source Set](#) - Provides historical context to women's suffrage in Iowa and U.S.
- [Anti-Suffrage Ad from The Iowa Homestead, May 25, 1916](#) - This advertisement, printed in *The Iowa Homestead* on May 25, 1916, was funded by the Iowa Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage. The organization argues that women's suffrage would directly lead to both higher taxes and the drowning out of the rural vote because of a doubled city vote.
- [Attendees of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Convention Held in Panora, Iowa, November 9-11, 1905](#) - This is a picture taken in November 1905 of the approximately 60 attendees, all women, of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Convention held in Panora, Iowa.
- [Women's Suffrage Parade Shown Passing by Church, October 29, 1908](#) - In this photograph, taken in Boone, Iowa on October 29, 1908, a suffrage parade made up of people carrying banners and flags passes by a large church.
- [Map Abstract of June 5, 1916, Vote for Woman Suffrage Constitutional Amendment in Iowa, 1916](#) - This 1916 map from Carrie Chapman Catt's scrapbook was created after the failed June 5, 1916, vote attempt to add a woman suffrage amendment to the Iowa constitution.
- [Billboard Urging Iowans to Vote "Yes" for Women's Suffrage, 1916](#) - This photograph is of a billboard urging Iowans to vote for women's suffrage in an upcoming primary election on

June 5, 1916. The large text reads, "Iowa Next. Vote yes June 5th 1916," and is next to a map of the 48 contiguous states.

- [Letter from Anna Lawther of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association to County Chairman, November 13, 1918](#) - In a letter to a county chairman, Anna Lawther states that the secretary of state forgot to publish the suffrage amendment in newspapers prior to the June 5 election which led to the amendment's defeat.
- [Response Letter from Iowa Secretary of State W.S. Allen to Anna Lawther, December 1918](#) - Iowa Secretary of State W. S. Allen wrote this response letter to Anna Lawther and Carrie Chapman Catt to apologize for not publishing the proposed suffrage amendment in local newspapers ahead of the June 5, 1916, vote.

Meskwaki Return to Iowa: Reversing Removal

- [American Indian Removal and Relocation Source Set](#) - Provides info about Meskwaki (Sac and Fox) Indian experience in Iowa compared to the experience of tribes in other parts of the United States.
- [American Indians and Westward Expansion Source Set](#) - Focuses on forces or reasons that caused American Indians to be forced from their land.
- [Right to Vote: Suffrage for Women, African Americans and American Indians Source Set](#) - A look at the complex legal status of American Indians within the United States.
- [Marion County Resolution in Response to Indian Removal Act, February 5, 1852](#) - This petition was addressed to the U.S. Congress, and it was created by the residents of Marion County, Iowa, after the Indian Removal Act was enacted.
- [Iowa Law to "Allow Meskwaki to Purchase Land and Live in Tama, Iowa," July 15, 1856](#) - This document is a law enacted by the Iowa General Assembly permitting American Indians to buy land in Iowa. The Act was passed in 1856. The following year, the Meskwaki purchased land in Tama County, Iowa.
- ["The Musquakas of Tama County" Essay from The Annals of Iowa, 1870](#) - This article appeared in The Annals of Iowa in 1870. The removal of American Indians west of the Mississippi had begun 40 years earlier.
- [Deed of Land Sale to Meskwaki, July 13, 1857](#) - This deed is for the sale of 80 acres of land to the Meskwaki. After petitioning the Iowa legislature, the Meskwaki were granted permission to purchase land in 1857.
- [Meskwaki Land Purchases, 2004](#) - This map and accompanying text show the history of land purchases made by the Meskwaki tribe.
- [Timeline of "How the Meskwaki and Sauki Became Three Separate 'Sac & Fox' Tribes," 2004](#) - This timeline, compiled by the Meskwaki Nation Historical Preservation Office, shows how the Meskwaki and Sac tribes became three separate "Sac & Fox" tribes between 1812 and 1869.
- [Iowa Public Television's "Iowa Land for Sale," 1977](#) - This video from Iowa Public Television describes how settlers purchased their land from the government, speculators and the railroads in the early 1800s.
- [Sac and Fox Treaty, 1842](#) - In this treaty, Chief Poweshiek signed over rights to Sac and Fox land in Iowa, and nearly all American Indians relocated to Kansas.
- [Sac and Fox Treaty, 1867](#) - In this 1867 treaty, the Sac and Fox tribes agreed to purchase 750,000 square miles of land in portions of what is now Payne, Lincoln and Pottawatomie counties.

- [Motion Presented by Iowa Senator J.B. Grinnell, February 5, 1867](#) - This document summarizes the motion made by United States Senator J.B. Grinnell from Iowa to an appropriations bill being debated in the U. S. Senate on February 5, 1867. Grinnell's request was to insert text to allow the band of Sacs and Foxes, who would later become known as the Meskwaki, to continue to live on their land in Tama County, Iowa, and to receive annuities from the U.S. government, even though they did not reside in "Indian Territory."
- [Constitution and Bylaws of the Sac and Fox Tribes in Iowa, December 20, 1937](#) - After the U.S. Congress created the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the Meskwaki established their own constitution.

Iowa in the Civil War

How did Iowa take part in the Civil War? What factors contributed to the debate between the North and South that eventually led to the Civil War?

- [Civil War Source Set](#)
- [Cornerstone Speech" by Alexander Stephens in Savannah, Georgia, March 21, 1861:](#) Alexander Hamilton Stephens' speech declared that disagreements over the enslavement of Africans was the "immediate cause" of secession.
- [Petitions from Iowa Recorded in the U.S. Senate Journal, between 1850 and 1864:](#) The document describes petitions of Iowa citizens, "praying that no State may hereafter be admitted into the Union whose constitution does not prohibit slavery within its limits."
- *Charles Mason, Frist (head of the supreme court of the territory of Iowa... Burlington) Ruled on Rufus - Thought Abraham Lincoln overstepped his bounds (SHSI has transcript of his journal in Iowa City)*

How Iowa Got Its Shape

How are/were border disputes between states settled? Below are some resources looking at the border dispute between Iowa and Missouri.

- [Article Detailing Border Conflict Between Iowa and Missouri, May 17, 1845:](#) This document is a newspaper article that appeared in the Weekly National Intelligencer, a Washington D.C.-based newspaper. The article appeared on May 17, 1845, and describes conflict between the state of Missouri and the territory of Iowa.
- ["The Contested Boundary" Between Iowa and Missouri, October 30, 1847:](#) This newspaper article from 1847, after Iowa's admission to the Union, tells how both Iowa and Missouri have hired lawyers to present their cases regarding their shared border to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- [U.S. Supreme Court Report by Surveyors about the Iowa, Missouri Border, December 17, 1850:](#) This report to the U.S. Supreme Court was submitted by surveyors who had been commissioned to re-survey the southern border of Iowa after Missouri and Iowa sued each other. The surveyors particularly point out the difficulty of confirming the line surveyed in 1816 by John Sullivan.

Iowa Labor Disputes/Negotiations/Migrant Workers' Rights

- Find topics through the [Iowa Labor History Society](#)
- 1877 – First major strike in Iowa involves railroad employees in Council Bluffs, Burlington and Ottumwa
- 1888 – Great Burlington Railroad Strike

- 1891 – Iowa miners strike for 8-hour day
- 1911 – Muscatine button workers strike
- 1938 – Maytag Strike in Newton
- 1947 – Thousands of Iowa workers demonstrate at state capitol on April 22 to protest anti-labor legislation
- 1970 – Teacher Strike in Keokuk (jump started labor movement in Iowa - Janet Fife-LaFrenz)
- Important Labor Leader: John L. Lewis (mining workers' advocate from Lucas, Iowa, leader of AFL-CIO)
- 1969 – H. J. Heinz Company Boycott
 - [News Release from Muscatine Community Effort Organization about H. J. Heinz Company Boycott, 1969](#)
 - [From Barrio to "¡Boicoteo!": The Emergence of Mexican American Activism in Davenport, 1917-1970](#)
- 1970 - Oscar Mayer Plant Protest
 - ["The Year of the Chicano"](#)

Iowa's Role in International Debates and Diplomacy

Governor Robert Ray and the Tai Dam

- [Iowa Governor Robert Ray's Congressional Hearing Testimony about Refugee Legislation, May 24, 1979](#) - The source is a transcription of Iowa Governor Robert Ray's speech in front of the U.S. House of Representatives' subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law in 1979. Gov. Ray spoke on his feelings of moral obligation for resettling Tai-Dam refugees in Iowa, as well as the keys to success of the program.
- [Iowa Tai Dam Newsletter, December 19, 1975](#) - This is an edition of the newsletter created by the governor's task force on Indochinese resettlement in 1975. The newsletter is in two languages and covers issues related to education and other social service agencies.
- ["Most Iowans Oppose More Boat People" Des Moines Register Article, September 30, 1979](#) - The newspaper article presents and analyzes data from a survey given to Iowans related to their feelings about current refugees from southeast Asia and accepting more refugees.
- [Resolution of the Republican Governors Association Regarding Cambodia, November 20, 1979](#) - This document is of the resolution passed by the Republican Governors Association regarding a rising humanitarian crisis in Cambodia in 1979. This during Robert Ray's tenure as governor of Iowa.
- [Memo from E.L. Colton to Iowa Governor Robert Ray about Cuban Refugees, May 7, 1980](#) - This document is a memo from attorney E.L. Colton to Iowa Governor Robert Ray. In the memo, Colton said that he gave money to Vietnam refugees and that he would like to do the same for Cuban refugees who were being persecuted under Fidel Castro's regime.
- [Letter from Mrs. Stuhr to Iowa Governor Robert Ray about Tai Dam Refugees, May 13, 1980](#) - This letter is from Iowan Mrs. John Stuhr to Iowa Governor Robert Ray in 1980. Stuhr is from Council Bluffs, and she is writing to the governor to express her disapproval of the state's support of southeast Asian refugee resettlement in Iowa.
- [Letter from Mrs. Knode to Iowa Governor Robert Ray about Tai Dam Refugees, May 22, 1980](#) - This letter was written by Iowan Mrs. Ronald Knode to Iowa Governor Robert Ray in 1980. In the letter, Knode disapproved of the state's resettlement of Tai Dam refugees.

Assisting Refugees: Ruth Schaeffer Assists Those Fleeing Vietnam

- [Refugees in America Source Set](#) - Provides historical context to the relationship between the U.S. and refugees.
- [Memo from Daniel Parker to Theodore Marrs about Airlift of Vietnamese Children, April 3, 1975](#) - This memo is from Daniel Parker to Theodore Marrs, the special assistant to the U.S. president for human resources. Parker, who works in the State Department's Agency for International Development, recommended the release of funds to begin airlifting 2,000 Vietnamese children in "safe and suitable" aircraft.
- [Vietnamese Babies in Carriers on an Airplane to America, April 5, 1975](#) - This photograph shows Vietnamese babies and small children aboard an airplane bound for the United States as part of Operation Babylift, which was the name given to the mass evacuation of children from South Vietnam to the U.S. and other countries at the end of the Vietnam War.

Roswell Garst and Nikita Khrushchev the Diplomatic Farmers

- [Cold War Source Set](#) – Provides historical context about the Cold War.
- [Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev Visits Farms, Research Center in Iowa, 1959](#) - This film shows the news footage of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's visit to Iowa in 1959. Film five focuses on Khrushchev at the Iowa State University Swine Nutrition Farm. It shows him seeing how hogs were raised from birth to market.
- [Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev Visits Iowa, September 23, 1959](#) - Russian Premiere Nikita Khrushchev is seen in this photo in a motorcade traveling down Keosauqua Way en route to a reception at Hotel Ft. Des Moines. Khrushchev also was in Coon Rapids, Iowa, earlier on September 23, 1959, as he visited Garst farms and was hosted by Bob Garst, an international agriculturalist.
- ["Diplomatic Farmers: Iowans and the 1955 Agricultural Delegation to the Soviet Union," 2013](#) - From The Annals of Iowa, this source describes the process for selecting a unique delegation of men to travel to the Soviet Union from America, with a large number of delegates coming from Iowa.
- ["The Only Good Communist is a Dead One" Sign in Des Moines, Iowa, September 23, 1959](#) - This black and white photo shows a crowd gathered on a street in Des Moines, Iowa, to see Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Khrushchev was in town to meet with the owner and see the operation of Garst Farms. One man on the street holds a sign that reads, "The Only Good Communist is a Dead One."

Iowa Hog Lift/Operation "Noah's Ark" - International Diplomacy

- [Iowa Hog Lift to Japan, 1960](#) - The image shows hogs from Iowa being taken off a plane in Yamanashi Prefecture in Japan. The hogs were sent as a goodwill offering to the province in Japan in January of 1960.
- ["Vilsack Commemorates 50th Anniversary of the Iowa 'Hog Lift' in Yamanashi" Article, April 8, 2010](#) - The article released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture highlights events of the 50th anniversary of the Iowa "hog lift" in Japan.
- ["Operation 'Pig Lift'" Newspaper Article, August 1952](#) - This two-page article was published in The Berkshire News in August 1952. The text tells about 200 pigs that were flown from Des Moines to Korea by Northwest Airlines through the Heifer Project Committee and Christian Rural Overseas Program.
- [Pigs to Korea, 1952](#) - This photograph shows an unidentified Iowa farmer feeding corn to newly-transported pigs. Many orphanages wrote to Heifer International requesting they send livestock to them. Berkshire pigs from Iowa were one of the animals that were flown to South Korea.
- [Berkshire Piglets to Korea, 1952](#) - In 1952, Heifer International began sending livestock to Korea in order to repopulate the country's livestock population that had been destroyed in the war and also to provide food for refugees and those working to rebuild their lives. Heifer International continued sending livestock to South Korea until 1976.
- [Operation "Noah's Ark" for Korea, 1952](#) - The Heifer Project had shipped 222 goats, 331 pigs, 70 chickens, 216,000 hatching eggs, 500 rabbits and 200 hives of honey bees to Korea by 1954.

Chinese Exclusion Act

- [U.S. Rep. John Kasson \(R-IA\) Speech on Chinese Immigration, March 22, 1882](#) - This speech on Chinese immigration was presented before Congress by Iowa U.S. Representative John A. Kasson on March 22, 1882. Kasson argues in his speech against the Chinese Exclusion Act.
- [Burlingame Treaty, 1868](#) - The Burlingame Treaty was signed in July 1868, and it outlines a friendly relationship between China and the United States. The Burlingame Treaty gave both China and the United States rights to move freely in each other's respective countries.
- [Chinese Exclusion Act, May 6, 1882](#) - The Chinese Exclusion Act was approved on May 6, 1882. It was the first significant law restricting immigration into the United States. The Act also was a reversal in relations with China as outlined in the Burlingame Treaty.
- ["How John May Dodge the Exclusion Act," July 12, 1905](#) - This illustration shows Uncle Sam's boot kicking a Chinese immigrant off a dock as part of an anti-Chinese immigration campaign.
- [H.Res 683, A Resolution from the U.S. Congress Regarding Chinese Exclusion Act, June 8, 2012](#) - This U.S. House resolution was passed in 2012, and stated that Congress regrets the passage of legislation that adversely affected people of Chinese origin in the United States because of their ethnicity.
- Hoover and the food lift

Famous Iowans Connected to Debates or Diplomacy

A New Generation - various individuals involved in socially progressive causes in the 1960's - 1990's including papers for Iowa Socialists Bill Douglas, Karen Kubby and Jean Hagen

- Edna Griffin: ["Since it is my right, I would like to have it: Edna Griffin and the Katz Drug Store Desegregation Movement" Essay from The Annals of Iowa, 2008](#) - This 2008 Annals of Iowa essay written by high school student Noah Lawrence details the effort of Edna Griffin to desegregate Katz Drug Store in Des Moines, Iowa.
- Rep. John Lacey: [U.S. Rep. John Lacey's Bill about the Department of Agriculture, 1900 / Cabinet Portrait of Iowa U.S. Representative John Lacey, ca. 1890](#) - Huge conservationist, environmentalist. In 1888, John Lacey was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the state of Iowa until 1906. Lacey worked on the Bird and Game Act in 1900, also known as the Lacey Act, which stopped transportation of wild animals or birds killed in violation of state laws.
- Louis Hermann Pammel: [Letter from Louis Hermann Pammel to the Bank President in Steamboat Rock, Iowa, December 27, 1916](#) / [Louis Hermann Pammel Speaking at Dedication of Ledges State Park in Iowa, October 9, 1924](#) - Also huge advocate for conservation, environmentalism and national parks.

Henry A. Wallace

- Henry A. Wallace: [Presidential Candidate Henry A. Wallace Campaigns at William Penn College, 1948](#) - Photo of Wallace campaigning for president for the Progressive Party in 1948. Wallace had pretty socially-advanced policies and ideology as a public servant.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Senator Tom Harkin

- [People with Disabilities](#) - The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability.
- [Harkin Papers](#)
- [Senator Harkin Delivers Floor Speech in American Sign Language Upon Passage of the ADA](#)

Anna B. Lawther and Women's Suffrage

Anna B. Lawther was a pioneer in Women's rights, woman suffrage, higher education, and community participation. After the 19th Amendment became law, she was named Iowa's first Democratic National Committeewoman and traveled the state to inform new voters about the party. As the first woman appointed to the Iowa State Board of Education in 1921, Lawther was a strong voice for women in higher education for 20 years.

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of state forgot to publish the suffrage amendment in newspapers prior to the June 5 election which led to the amendment's defeat.

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Carrie Chapman Catt: Women's Suffrage

- [Address from Carrie Chapman Catt to U.S. Legislatures about Women's Suffrage Movement, 1919](#) - This document is an address given by Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Women's Suffrage Movement, to the legislatures of the United States in 1919.
- [Letter from President Woodrow Wilson to Carrie Chapman Catt, June 7, 1918](#) - President Woodrow Wilson said in this letter to Carrie Chapman Catt that he believes democracy will not have reached its fullest until women are given the right to vote. He also said he fully supported women's suffrage and acknowledged the significant contributions that women have made during times of crisis throughout history.

Alexander Clark: Diplomacy of School Integration

- [School Desegregation Source Set](#) - Provides national historical context to school desegregation in the U.S.
- [Iowa Supreme Court Rules on Equal Access: Portrait of Alexander Clark, 1867](#) - Portrait of Clark and overview of IA Supreme Court case
- [IPTV's "Alexander Clark and the First Successful School Desegregation Case in the United States," 2012](#) - This video is an excerpt from program "Lost in History: Alexander Clark," which was produced for Iowa Public Television in 2012.
- [Alexander Clark's Speech at the "Colored Convention" in Des Moines, Iowa, 1868](#) - Civil rights championed by Alexander Clark. In this address to the "Colored Convention" in Des Moines, Alexander Clark calls for the Iowa Legislature to approve and then place before the voters the removal of the word "white" from voting laws within the Iowa Constitution.
- [Alexander Clark's Petition to Allow Immigration of "Free Negroes" into Iowa, 1855](#) - Civil rights championed by Alexander Clark. This document is a petition submitted by Alexander Clark, a prominent Iowa civil rights leader, to the Iowa General Assembly in 1855. The petition calls on the legislature to overturn an exclusionary law that prohibited the immigration of free slaves into the state of Iowa.